Rhodora

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THE NEW ENGLAND BOTANICAL CLUB

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NOTE ON THE FORMS OF KALMIA LATIFOLIA.

ALFRED REHDER.

THE discovery of a new locality for the peculiar form of *Kalmia latifolia* with the corolla divided into five narrow petals recorded by Professor G. E. Stone in the October number of RHODORA (p. 199) is very interesting and shows that forms exhibiting exactly the same character of variation may originate independently at different localities and at different times. Besides this form several other distinct forms of the same species are known and have been introduced into cultivation, incidentally receiving varietal names published mostly in European dendrological and horticultural publications. As these names have apparently not yet been recorded in the botanical literature of this country and all the forms were probably originally found wild and may be found again, it will certainly be of interest to the student of our flora to give here an enumeration of these forms.

VARIATION IN THE SHAPE OF THE COROLLA.

KALMIA LATIFOLIA f. **polypetala** (Nicholson) — *K. latifolia* var. *polypetala* [Nicholson], Hand-list Arb. Kew II. 49. 1896 — Rehder, Möller's Deutsch. Gärtn.-Zeit. XVIII. 578. 1903.— *K. latifolia monstruosa* Mouillefert, Traité Arb. Arbriss. II. 1027. 1897 — *K. latifolia* var. *monstruosa* Rehder in Bailey, Cycl. Am. Hort. II. 854. 1900. This form, as mentioned by Professor Stone, was first found by Miss M. Bryant near South Deerfield, Mass., in 1870 and described by Asa Gray in 1871 (Am. Nat. IV. 373) as a form showing dialysis with staminody, later an illustration was published by Professor C. S. Sargent in Garden & Forest III. 452, fig. 56, 1890. In the plants now in cultivation the tendency towards staminody is much less marked than in the specimen described by Gray and preserved in the Gray Herbarium, also Professor Stone did not observe it in the plant he discovered.

VARIATION IN THE COLOR OF THE COROLLA.

KALMIA LATIFOLIA f. **alba** (Mouillefert) — *K. latifolia alba* Mouillefert l. c.— *Kalmia latifolia* var. *alba* Lavallé, Arb. Segrez. 159. 1877 — Rehder in Bailey l. c. This form has white flowers with the purple markings very faint.

KALMIA LATIFOLIA f. RUBRA Sweet ex K. Koch, Dendr. II. 1.152. 1872.— *K. latifolia* var. *rubra* Rehder in Bailey l. c.— *K. latifolia Pavartii* André, Rev. Hort. 1888. 540, with color. pl.— Mouillefert l. c. Flowers deep pink; the leaves are usually of a somewhat darker green and a little more thickish than in the type. Like the preceding it is connected with the light pink flowered type by intermediate forms.

KALMIA LATIFOLIA f. **fuscata** (Rehder) — *K. latifolia* var. *fuscata* Rehder, Möller's Deutsch. Gärtn.-Zeit. XVIII. 578. 1903. Flowers somewhat smaller inside with a broad brownish purple or almost chocolate colored band dissolved toward the base into brown dots and edged at the upper margin with a narrow pink border, outside whitish with the dark color shining through. NEW YORK: Canaan Four Corners, *Dr. Childs*, June 23, 1903 (type in Herb. Arnold Arb.). This form is not in cultivation; living branches sent to the Arboretum and grafted failed to grow.

VARIATION IN THE SHAPE OF THE LEAVES.

KALMIA LATIFOLIA f. MYRTIFOLIA K. Koch, Dendr. II. 1. 153. 1872. — *Kalmia latifolia* var. *myrtifolia* Jäger, Ziergehölze 280. 1865.— E. S. Rand, Rhododendrons 125. 1871.— Rehder in Bailey l. c.— *K. latifolia* f. *minor* K. Koch l. c.— *K. latifolia* var. *nana* Lavallé, Arb. Segrez. 139. 1877.— *K. myrtifolia* André, Rev. Hort. 1883. 10, fig. 1. Leaves small, lance-oblong, 2–3 or rarely to 4 cm. long and about 1 cm. broad; usually only a few feet high and forming a dense and compact bush.

KALMIA LATIFOLIA f. **obtusata** (Rehder) — *Kalmia latifolia* var.

obtusata Rehder, Möller's Deutsch. Gärtn.-Zeit. XVIII. 577. 1903. Leaves oval to oblong-obovate, rounded at both ends or only slightly narrowed, at the apex furnished with an obtuse yellowish mucro, 4–7 cm. long and 2.3–3.7 cm. broad, dark green above and on both sides with a conspicuous yellow midrib; petioles stout scarcely 1 cm. long. Like the preceding form this is of slow growth and forms a compact bush, the broad obtuse stiff leaves resembling those of *Rhododendron catawbiense* except that they are smaller. This form is in cultivation at the Arnold Arboretum since 1886, when it was propagated from a plant discovered a short time ago by Mr. James Bowditch near Pomfret, Connecticut.

ARNOLD ARBORETUM.

REPORTS ON THE FLORA OF THE BOSTON DISTRICT,— VI.

ALISMACEAE.

ALISMA.

A. Plantago-aquatica L. Shallow water with muddy bottom, throughout.

ECHINODORUS.

E. tenellus (Martius) Buchenau. "Near Mt. Auburn, Cambridge" (*Thomas P. James*, 1868 and August, 1869); "On margin of pond, north side Watertown road above R. R. station at Mt. Auburn, Cambridge" (*Wm. Boott*, Aug. 31, 1869); "Mud Pond, Watertown Road" (*Thomas P. James*, September, 1873). Muddy shore of Winter Pond, Winchester, various collections since 1876. These are the only New England stations ever reported for this very rare plant.

LOPHOTOCARPUS.

L. spongiosus (Engelm.) J. G. Sm. Alewife Brook, W. Cambridge (*Wm. Boott*, Aug. 21, 1870); Mystic River (*Wm. Boott*, September, 1863 and Aug. 12, 1868); bank of Mystic Pond (*Wm. Boott*, Oct. 1, 1876); Woburn Pond (*Wm. Boott*, Aug. 21, 1863); tidal river flats, Newburyport (*A. A. Eaton*, 1898; *M. L. Fernald*, Oct. 2, 1902).

SAGITTARIA.

S. Engelmanniana J. G. Sm. Muddy or peaty soil around ponds and wet places. Ponkapog Pond, Canton and Randolph (*J. R. Churchill,* July 19, 1870; *G. G. Kennedy,* Sept. 3, 1888; *C. H. Knowlton,* Aug. 1, 1908); Milton (*A. W. Cheever,* Aug. 14, 1905); Grassy Pond, Acton (*J. R. Churchill,* Aug. 4, 1888); Gleason's Pond and small unnamed ponds, Framingham (*A. J. Eames,* Sept. 5, 1908); Long Pond, Tewksbury (*Wm. Boott,* Aug. 24, 1865); Round or Priest Pond, Tewksbury (*H. H. Bartlett,* Sept. 21, 1905. "Reproduces also by long flagelliform stolons with a winter bud at end").

S. graminea Michx. Shallow water; scattered stations in northern half of district.

S. heterophylla Pursh. Canal bed, S. Lawrence (*A. S. Pease,* July 9, 1902).

S. heterophylla Pursh, var. **rigida** (Pursh) Engelm. Newbury (*A. A. Eaton,* July 28, 1903).

S. latifolia Willd. Wet places throughout, common. All the forms represented in Gray's Manual have been reported.

S. subulata (L.) Buchenau, var. (?) **gracillima** (Wats.) J. G. Sm. Paul's Bridge, Neponset River, Milton; Charles River in Newton, Needham and Natick; Waban Brook, Wellesley. " Concord River" (*A. W. Hosmer.* See RHODORA, i. 224. 1899).

S. teres Wats. Sandy Pond, Lincoln (*A. W. Hosmer.* See RHODORA, l. c.). The only authentic report from north of Cape Cod.

HYDROCHARITACEAE.

ELODEA.

E. canadensis Michx. Quiet water of ponds and streams; North Andover, Cambridge, Medford, Wayland; also Charles River near Wellesley.

VALLISNERIA.

V. spiralis L. Deep still water; scattered stations in northern half of district. The earliest record is by Wm. Boott, who collected the plant in Mystic Pond, Aug. 26, 1853.

ARACEAE.

ACORUS.

A. Calamus L. Swamps and borders of still waters, common throughout.

ARISAEMA.

A. triphyllum (L.) Schott. Rich moist woods, common and abundant.

CALLA.

C. palustris L. Very wet muddy places. We have no records from the southeastern section, but the plant occurs sparingly throughout the rest of the district.

PELTANDRA.

P. virginica (L.) Kunth. Wet meadows and muddy shores, frequent throughout.

SYMPLOCARPUS.

S. foetidus (L.) Nutt. Wet woods and swamps; common and abundant throughout.

LEMNACEAE.

LEMNA.

L. minor L. Still water, common in central part of the area.

L. trisulca L. Fresh Pond, Cambridge (*Wm. Boott,* August, 1859; *C. E. Perkins,* July 17, 1879); Glacialis, Cambridge (*J. Murdoch, Jr.,* May 7, 1904); Lincoln (*E. F. Williams,* Sept. 5, 1902); "Alewife Brook below bridge on the Powderhouse Road, Medford" (*Wm. Boott,* Nov. 3, 1867).

L. valdiviana Philippi. Nooks in slow streams; Monatiquot Stream, Blue Hill Reservation; and Beaver Brook, Sharon.

SPIRODELA.

S. polyrhiza (L.) Schleid. Still water; frequent in northern half of district, but not reported from the southern towns.

ERIOCAULACEAE.

ERIOCAULON.

E. septangulare With. Borders of ponds, emersed or in water of varying depth, common.

XYRIDACEAE.

XYRIS.

X. caroliniana Walt. Wet places, rather common. Not reported from southeastern towns.

X. flexuosa Muhl. Wet places, rare, Essex Co. (no date. Specimens in Herb. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist.[1]); Concord (*Miss F. C. Prince,* no date. Specimens in Herb. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist.); Boston (— *Boott,* 1830. Specimens in Herb. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist.[2]).

X. Smalliana Nash. Wet places on borders of ponds; Acton, Essex, Littleton, Milton, Tewksbury, also shores of Ponkapaug Pond in Canton and Randolph. Wm. Oakes collected this species in a pond in Middleton before July 31, 1848, the date of his death. Specimen in Herb. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist.

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[1] It is possible that these specimens were collected by William Oakes, but the handwriting on the label is not sufficiently conclusive.

[2] There is a special interest attaching to these specimens of Boott's. They are four in number, three of them being mounted and one loose in a paper pocket. The label reads "Xyris Jupicai, Boston. From Boott, 1830." The first three words are in the handwriting of Francis Boott, while the last three are in an unknown hand and are inserted on the lower left-hand corner of the label. The date, 1830, evidently refers to the time when Francis Boott presented the specimens. He could not have collected the plants in Boston in 1830, for Dr. Asa Gray says, in an obituary notice published in the Amer. Journ. Sci. and Arts for March, 1864, "In the year 1820 Dr. Boott crossed the Atlantic for the last time, and, proceeding to London, entered upon the study of medicine." Dr. Boott might have collected the specimens before he sailed for Europe. It does not seem at all likely that his brother William made the collection, for his active work began much later, after 1853 or thereabouts, as the numberless labels, accompanying his specimens deposited in the Gray Herbarium, show.

It seems very likely that the plants were collected by another brother, John Wright Boott, about whom comparatively little is known. He was born in 1788 or 1789 and lived with his brother William on the present site of the Revere House, Boston. A beautiful garden adjoined the house. In the summer of 1816 John ascended Mt. Moosilauke in New Hampshire with his brother Francis, but the most interesting fact that we know of him is in connection with *Prenanthes Boottii* (DC.) Gray, the small composite of the alpine regions of northern New England and New York. Doubtless few botanists are aware that this plant was named for John Wright Boott. He collected it in the White Mountains of New Hampshire in 1829 and sent it to London to his brother Francis, who in turn sent it to Geneva to De Candolle. De Candolle named the plant for the collector *Nabalus Boottii* and kept the specimen in his herbarium in Geneva. Prof. M. L. Fernald, when in Geneva in 1903, photographed the sheet, and prints are at the Gray Herbarium. The original label is in Francis Boott's handwriting and reads as follows, "Prenanthes ——? from White Mountains North America above the woods J. W. Boott 1829." Another label in DeCandolle's handwriting reads, "Nabalus Boottii DC." John Wright Boott died by suicide on March 7, 1845, and lies buried at Mount Auburn. [W. D.]

COMMELINACEAE.

COMMELINA.

C. communis L. Waste places; Boston, Cambridge, Chelmsford, Dover, Winchester.

TRADESCANTIA.

T. virginiana L. Waste places; Ashland, Framingham, Marshfield, Needham, Walpole.

PONTEDERIACEAE.

HETERANTHERA.

H. dubia (Jacq.) MacM. Pleasant Pond, Wenham (*G. E. Davenport,* Aug. 16, 1875. Specimen in Gray Herb.)

PONTEDERIA.

P. cordata L. Muddy ponds and streams, common throughout.

C. H. Knowlton
J. A. Cushman
Walter Deane
A. K. Harrison
Committee on Local Flora.

Ramalina Montagnaei DeNot., on Long Island.— Messrs. D. P. and J. E. P. Morgan brought me, in October, abundant material of this Austral lichen from Southampton, Long Island, N. Y., collected on cedars, September 15, 1909. Both the plant and spores are quite typical, the latter measuring μ 24–32 × 4–5. This is the northernmost locality from which this lichen has been reported, having never been collected, so far as I am aware, north of South Carolina (*Ravenel*). The insular climate, and proximity to the Gulf Stream, explains no doubt its presence in this latitude.

Examples are deposited in the author's herbarium (No. 1677), also in Dr. L. W. Riddle's, Wellesley, Mass., and in the herbarium of Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.— R. Heber Howe, Jr., Thoreau Museum, Concord, Massachusetts.

FLORA OF LOWER CAPE COD; SUPPLEMENTARY NOTE.

F. S. Collins.

In my paper on the flora of lower Cape Cod[1] I made only brief mention of the native trees; I had given little attention to them, only noticing their presence as I passed by, with my mind more on herbaceous plants and cryptogams. In a short visit to Eastham in September last, I looked more closely, and now think that the expression I used does not do justice to the oaks. "Scrub oaks" certainly describes their habit, as they form dense thickets, usually with pines interspersed, over considerable areas, but when I examined these thickets more closely, to see if they were composed of *Quercus ilicifolia*, our common scrub oak near Boston, or *Q. prinoides*, of somewhat more southern range, I was confronted with a bewildering variety in the form and size of the leaves, and a great scarcity of acorns. Especially in districts that had been burned over the new growth showed leaves of enormous size and undecided contour. It was only by tracing the connection from these scrubs to the older trees, that any definite forms could be determined, and then it was a surprise to find that my "scrub oak" included no less than four species; *Q. alba, Q. velutina, Q. ilicifolia* and *Q. prinoides* var. *rufescens*. I was on the watch for *Q. stellata*, but did not find it; I think, however, it may yet be found, as it occurs in Brewster, only eight miles up the Cape.

In the Rev. Mr. Pratt's history of Eastham, from which I quoted, he speaks of a native forest of considerable extent formerly existing in the northern part of the town, but improvidently destroyed; I think a small part of this still exists, as the old "Camp Meeting Grove." It is many years since camp-meetings were held here, and the only indication of its former use is found in the decaying benches in the central open space, which is steadily growing smaller as the seedlings advance from the circumference. The sacred groves were reverenced by the ancients, and part of this reverence may have lasted even till now, and saved these trees. All four species of oaks grow here, and the trees of *Q. alba* and *Q. velutina* appear to be of a good old age. In absolute measurement they are not large or tall, I think none are over thirty feet high, but in this region everything is on a small scale, and they are relatively noble trees; a very dense growth of lichens covers the trunks, and a few of the larger trees seem to be dying of old age, but most are still vigorous. Here and there among them are a few individuals of *Juniperus virginiana* of normal development, and about the central open area are some rather dwarf individuals of *Populus alba.* There is quite a depth of vegetable mould under the trees, which seems to be favorable to herbaceous plants; *Solidago puberula* grows here, of normal size; it is the only station I have observed in the town. The largest tree in Eastham, curiously, is not among these native trees. A large and well shaped *Ailanthus glandulosa* quite overshadows the house of Captain Higgins. The captain is the owner of a golden-headed cane, presented to him by the Boston Post as the oldest inhabitant of the town, but when I asked him when the tree was set out, he could not tell me. His predecessor in the house, "The old captain" he called him, had brought it from foreign parts and set it out there, so he understood.

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[1] Rhodora, Vol. XI, p. 125.

This year I visited an interesting locality in the town, the so-called "Sunken Meadow." This is near the bay shore, separated from it by a fairly high, continuous sand dune. The name represents its appearance, but is misleading, as the place is evidently a tract of salt marsh, which has been cut off from the sea by the formation of the dunes, and in which the salt marsh plants are being supplanted by those of the uplands. The characteristic fertility of land reclaimed from the sea appears here; the hay crop is the best in town, and the wild plants have a better nurtured look than elsewhere in Eastham. *Solidago neglecta,* for instance, was common, the plants large and luxuriant; I had not met it before in the town. In the middle of the "Sunken Meadow" is a pond, on which ice has been cut for many years; so that the time when it was connected with the sea must be remote. Its appearance is quite that of an ordinary salt marsh pool, and the dense coating of algae covering its surface seems to be what is usually found in stations of the same appearance; *Cladophora expansa* Kütz., *Lyngbya aestuarii* (Mert.) Liebm., *Enteromorpha* species, etc.; but when examined more closely, there are found among these marine forms such fresh water plants as *Spirogyra, Microspora* and the like. The area now occupied by the salt water plants, including land and water forms, is relatively small, and is probably decreasing, but the plants do not appear to be dwarfed. The halophytic Old Guard, though surrounded by advancing enemies, is not yet ready to surrender.

Malden, Massachusetts.

NOTE ON BOEHMERIA CYLINDRICA, VAR. DRUMMONDIANA.

M. L. Fernald.

In 1854, in his *Revue de la Famille des Urticées,* Weddell described from Texas a *Boehmeria* as follows: "B. Drummondiana †: foliis ovatis, acutis, subacuminatis, basi subcordatis, serratis, rigidulis, supra hispidulis demum glabratis asperrimis, subtus molliter pubescenti-tomentosis; spicis brevibus, erectis.— Texas (Drummond, pl. exs., no. 267)."[1]

Subsequently, however, Weddell concluded that the plant was only a variety of *Boehmeria cylindrica* (L.) Sw.,[2] treating it in DeCandolle's Prodromus as *B. cylindrica, β, Drummondiana.*[3]

In 1889, Porter, describing a plant which is found in bogs of New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania characterized it as follows: "*Boehmeria cylindrica,* Willd., var. scabra, n. var.— Erect, strict, 2 feet high; leaves thick and rigid, very rough on the upper surface, tomentose beneath, on short petioles or almost sessile [,] usually reflexed and pressed against the stem; spikes densely flowered, much longer than the petioles."[4]

Under the name, var. *scabra* Porter, the plant with the leaves harsh above and more or less tomentulose beneath has been generally taken up, and Small has advanced it to specific rank as *Boehmeria scabra* (Porter) Small,[5] with a range extending from "New York to Michigan, Kansas, Florida and Texas." But no one in recent years seems to have noted the fact that Weddell had already described *B. cylindrica*, var. *Drummondiana* (*B. Drummondiana*) with the same peculiarities of foliage as those which characterize var. *scabra* Porter. A specimen of Drummond's no. 267 (the type number of Weddell's species or variety) is in the Gray Herbarium and it is identical with the plant of broad distribution on the coastal plain from Nantucket to northern Mexico which is generally passing as var. *scabra*. Although easily separated from typical *B. cylindrica*, the variety often simulates it in having the leaves thinner and on longer petioles than in the extreme of the variety, and in bogs and open situations the smooth-leaved plant often has thick short-petioled leaves which simulate those of the variety. It is thus apparent that it is wise to accept Weddell's mature judgment and that of Dr. Porter, in regarding the plant as a variety of *B. cylindrica* rather than a distinct species. In fact, Mr. E. P. Bicknell, who has often urged that the occurrence of transitional forms should not invalidate the title to specific rank of plants which in their extremes are easily recognizable, is inclined to follow the conclusion of Weddell and of Porter, for, in his critical notes on *The Ferns and Flowering Plants of Nantucket*, although listing the plant as *B. scabra* (Porter) Small, he adds the note: "Typical examples appear very distinct from *Boehmeria cylindrica* but the two plants seem to run together and may prove to be only extreme conditions of one species."[1]

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[1] Weddell, Ann. des Sci. Nat. 4me Sér., i. 201 (1854).

[2] *B. cylindrica* is very commonly cited as dating from Willd. Sp. iv. 340 (1805); but it was clearly published in Swartz, Prodr. Veg. Ind. Occ. 34 (1788).

[3] Weddell in D. C. Prodr. xvi. pt. 1, 202 (1869).

[4] Porter, Bull. Torr. Bot. Cl. xvi. 21 (1889).

[5] Small, Fl. S. E. U. S. 358 (1903).

By those who still incline to treat the plant as a species it should be known, then, not as *Boehmeria scabra* (Porter) Small but as *B. Drummondiana* Weddell; while by those who feel that the facts of Nature are more precisely stated by treating as varieties plants which are known freely to intergrade it will be called *B. cylindrica* (L.) Sw., var. *Drummondiana* Weddell.

GRAY HERBARIUM.

MENYANTHES TRIFOLIATA IN WEST VIRGINIA.— While I was on a collecting trip, to what was once a spruce and hemlock swamp at Cranesville, W. Va., in 1904, my attention was called to a plant growing there that no one seemed to know and which was reputed to have certain medicinal properties. I did not recognize the plant from the description given by the gentleman who inquired about it. I was so interested in finding out what the plant might be, that I went to the place where it grew, and collected a number of specimens, one of which I have sent to the Gray Herbarium. I did not know the plant, but found out later that it was *Menyanthes trifoliata* L. The past summer, while on a collecting trip to the Cranberry Glades, Pocahontas County, W. Va., Mr. A. B. Brooks, one of the party, brought me some specimens of the same plant which he had collected in one of the glades. In so far as I have been able to ascertain, these two localities are far south of the previously reported range for *Menyanthes trifoliata*. However, the altitude and the glades correspond to the northern habitat to some extent.— John L. Sheldon, West Virginia University, Morgantown, W. Va.

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[1] Bicknell, Bull. Torr. Bot. Cl. xxxvi. 29 (1909).

Zannichellia palustris, an additional record.— I have to record an interesting addition to our list of the *Najadaceae*, published in Rhodora, xi. 205–208. 1909. Professor Wm. G. Farlow has presented me with a specimen of fruiting *Zannichellia palustris* L. which he collected in the northwestern corner of Brighton "in a brackish marsh" on the border of Charles River in August, 1877. Professor Farlow writes, under date of December 6, 1909, "I collected Zannichellia growing with Ruppia on the Charles River between Brighton and Newton. After leaving Faneuil the railroad now crosses a marsh by an embankment which passes opposite the old Stickney place in Watertown. In the ditches near the river towards the Faneuil end of the marsh was Zannichellia and farther back from the river was Zizania. Probably the plants have now disappeared." The locality is nearly opposite the Watertown Arsenal.

These details are of special interest in view of the rapid changes that are in progress in the region about Boston. The construction of the large dam near the mouth of the river has converted the area under consideration into a fresh water way, maintained at a constant level, and the plants that haunt salt or brackish situations, such as have always heretofore existed along the banks of the Charles River as far up as the dam in Watertown, are rapidly disappearing, if indeed they exist at all.

Zannichellia palustris is an uncommon plant in New England, inhabiting sparingly the brackish marshes along the coast, and but rarely occurring inland.— Walter Deane, for the Local Flora Committee.

SCLEROLEPIS UNIFLORA IN RHODE ISLAND.— On the 29th of October, 1909, while collecting in company with H. W. Preston and Thomas Hope, the writer found several specimens of *Sclerolepis uniflora* (Walt.) BSP. growing in the sand between the rocks and larger boulders along the shore of Wallum Pond, in the town of Burrillville, Rhode Island. The plants were just coming into bloom, only a few showing fully opened flowers, the majority having small immature heads, often so small as to be almost invisible unless closely examined. Owing to the extreme drought of the past summer the water level of the pond had fallen about eight feet, and the plants were growing some distance from the water. If the pond had been at its normal level the plants would have been in from six inches to two feet of water.

According to the 7th edition of Gray's Manual this plant is known to grow at only one station north of New Jersey, that being in New Hampshire. One noticeable difference from the published descriptions seems worthy of record. The pappus of all the specimens examined almost entirely lacked the horny texture usually recorded for this species.— J. FRANKLIN COLLINS, Providence, Rhode Island.

COULTER & NELSON'S BOTANY OF THE CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAINS.[1]— The appearance of a descriptive flora, bringing together in a single handy volume a considerable mass of scattered data, the results of some decades of taxonomic activity, is a notable event. For several reasons this is particularly true in regard to the new and exceedingly welcome revision of Coulter's well known Manual. The region covered is one of exceptional diversity and biological interest. It is the seat of a rapidly increasing population and the attractive resort of an ever increasing number of tourists, for whose pleasure as well as information the present work will mean much. Notable in regard to the work is the fact that it has been prepared by a writer whose many years of residence in the region have given him first-hand acquaintance with a large percentage of the plants described.

As to its geographic limits, it may be said that the work aims to cover all the vascular plants of Colorado, Wyoming, the Yellowstone Park, and the Black Hills, most of Montana, southern Idaho, eastern Utah, northeastern Arizona, and northern New Mexico. It describes about 2900 species and varieties, belonging to about 650 genera.

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[1] New Manual of Botany of the Central Rocky Mountains (Vascular Plants), by John M. Coulter, Ph. D., Professor of Botany, University of Chicago, revised by Aven Nelson, Ph. D., Professor of Botany, University of Wyoming. 8vo. 646 pages. American Book Co., New York, Cincinnati, and Chicago.

In typography, as well as in the general form of presentation, it bears a considerable resemblance to the recently issued edition of Gray's Manual, the chief differences being the more complete use of block keys, the introduction of a brief bibliographical reference after every accepted specific and varietal name — a feature of decided value — and by the failure to indicate introduced plants by any distinctive type or to emphasize by italics diagnostic traits of particular importance.

There are furthermore no illustrations and no attempt has been made to indicate the correct pronunciation of the scientific names by marks of accentuation, nor is the derivation of generic names pointed out as in many floras.

In the interpretation of specific limits the work appears to be fairly conservative, while in the matter of dividing large and traditional genera, as well as in the nomenclature, a middle course has been followed. Thus, such genera as *Polygonum, Astragalus, Oxalis, Euphorbia,* and *Cornus* are retained in their customary broader sense, while *Oenothera, Aplopappus, Aster,* and several other large genera are divided. This is, of course, a matter on which individual judgment is likely to vary rather widely and be considerably influenced by the particular species within the limits treated. More difficult to grasp is the nomenclatural plan of the work, though in the preface we are told that "the nomenclature, so far as practicable, is that adopted by the Vienna Congress." It is quite true that considerable concession has evidently been made to the international rules, and for this, most professional botanists and the majority of amateurs, who wish to be on an orthodox footing in regard to this matter, will be duly grateful. Thus, it is pleasant to see *Luzula, Smilacina, Spiranthes, Arceuthobium, Suaeda, Spergularia, Stellaria, Mamillaria, Liatris,* etc., but the interspersing of other names like *Roripa, Ratibida, Washingtonia, Parthenocissus, Covillea,* and *Parosela,* suggests an attempt at compromise not easily understood.

The keys seem to have been admirably worked out. They are for the most part dichotomous and the distinctions are stated with a brevity and definiteness of contrast which can only be the result of much study. The metric system of measurements has been used, a matter, we believe, of decided wisdom. On the other hand the use of the trinomial constitutes a pronounced defect. In this connection attention may be called to Recommendation XVIII of the Vienna Rules, which reads "Not to publish a name without clearly indicating whether it is the name of a family or a tribe, a genus or a section, a species or a variety; briefly, without expressing an opinion on the nature of the group to which they give the name." Of the numerous trinomials employed in the work under consideration, some have been originally described as subspecies, the majority as varieties, and some as forms. Here, these different categories are lumped without visible distinction. It is true, in the tabular statistics at the back of the book they are reckoned as "varieties," but those not originally published as varieties are still quoted without change of authority. It is quite true that sharp distinction in the groups below the species is difficult, especially difficult in the case of a flora newly explored, yet the experience of all older civilizations shows conclusively that such distinctions have ultimately to be made in order to satisfy discriminating taxonomists. The use of the trinomial may be convenient in that it enables a writer to group in a non-committal way all subdivisions of species in one vague and unnamed category, but it is obviously a reactionary measure, avoiding precision, and therefore not likely to persist in the long run. It is comparable with the neglect of small coin in newly settled regions.

Another tendency of the present work which is seen with regret is the raising to specific rank of certain forms or varieties of plants recently introduced from the Old World. Thus the commoner form of the Prickly Lettuce becomes *Lactuca integrata* (Gren. & Godr.) A. Nelson, and the Russian Thistle, *Salsola pestifer* A. Nelson. These are both plants the taxonomic status of which should obviously be determined by affinities with their Old World relatives, and it is, we believe, the universal judgment of botanists of the Old World that they represent in their native habitats merely rather trifling varieties. It can scarcely be supposed that the accidental introduction of these particular varieties on American soil and their consequent rapid dissemination constitutes any valid reason for a change in their rank. Furthermore the editor is not consistent, since he retains *Chrysanthemum Leucanthemum* for the common American White Weed, notwithstanding the fact that it is fully as distinct from the typical European form of that species.

The editor has considerately listed at the end of the book the new scientific names launched in the body of the text. There are about 170 of these, a number by no means excessive; but the list unhappily is by no means complete, for several new names have been coined in the text which are not included. The fact that most of these happen to be combinations lightly launched and not advanced as valid even by their creator would seem to indicate that they had been purposely excluded from the list, which thereby becomes positively misleading. Examples of this are "*P*[*olygonum*] *lilacina* (Greene); *P. calophylla* (Greene), both under *Bistorta*," also several other Polygonums and *Brickellia* (*Coleosanthus*) *umbellatus* (Greene), *B.* (*Coleosanthus*) *albicaulis* (Rydb.), *B.* (*Coleosanthus*) *scaber* (Greene), and *B.* (*Coleosanthus*) *humilis* (Greene). What possible excuse can be offered for the wholly needless creation of these new binomials, endorsed by no one, not even by the author who foists them upon the botanical public? It is true that some of these names may ultimately be taken up by future writers and in that event the editor will win the dubious honor of having his name quoted after them. In this connection attention may be called to Recommendation XIX of the Vienna Rules which reads "Botanists will do well * * * * to avoid publishing or mentioning in their publications unpublished names which they do not accept, * * * "

A few misprints and slight errors occur, as must be expected in any work of this extent. Thus the new combination "*Suaeda Moquinii* (Torr.) A. Nelson" and its synonym "*Dondia Moquina* A. Nelson" ring needless changes upon Torrey's original *Chenopodina Moquini*. *Brassica arvensis* is a combination which should be attributed to Kuntze not to B. S. P., and *Melilotus alba* is a name formed by Desrousseaux not by Desvaux. More serious is the lack accuracy in the bibliographical citations. As a test of this matter the genus *Chrysothamnus* was selected at random. Its treatment contains thirty-three citations and of these ten are in some one or more particulars incorrect.

There are several rather surprising omissions from the flora, even in the case of Colorado plants. No mention, for instance, is made of *Encelia nutans* Eastwood or of *Chaenactis scaposa* Eastwood; and what has become of the *Mimoseae* and *Caesalpineae* of which there are at least four genera in Colorado?

Space does not permit the taking up of many minor matters in the separation of species, interpretation of types — We had thought for instance that *Pulsatilla hirsutissima* and *Agrimonia Brittoniana* had been adequately threshed out — applications of names, limits of range, etc.; on which the editor's conclusions are not entirely convincing. On the whole, however, the work has been elaborated with great care, a proper sense of proportion, and a painstaking regard for simplicity, brevity, and clearness. There is much to commend, only details to criticise. At points one wishes the editor had had access to the large eastern herbaria and libraries during his work, but on the other hand he has had the inestimable advantage of prolonged and intensive field-work in the region described.— B. L. R.

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